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Essentials of an Acceptable School for Inhalation Therapy Technicians.
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Prepared by the Council with the cooperation of the Society of Anesthesiologists, the Society of Chest Physicians, and the American Association for Inhalation Therapy, the standards are intended for informing of physicians, hospitals, and prospective students and for the protecting of the public. Twenty-two standards are organized under the headings of Administration, Faculty, Facilities, Requirements for Admission, Health, Curriculum, Ethics, and Admission to the Approved List. A basic curriculum of 1800 clock hours of instruction includes: (1) the applied sciences of anatomy, microbiology, chemistry, pathology, pharmacology, psysiology, and physics, (2) procedures in gas analysis, airway management, administration of oxygen and other gases, humidification, ventilation, resuscitation, lung physiology, spirometry, and equipment maintenance, (3) clinical applications in emergencies, medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics, general and thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, and pulmonary function, (4) ethics and administration, (5) nursing arts, and (6) clinical practice. (JK)

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Essentials of an Acceptable School for Inhalation Therapy Technicians

December 1, 1967

Prepared by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association with the cooperation of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the American Association for Inhalation Therapy, and presented to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association for approval.

The organizations primarily concerned with the training of inhalation therapy technicians are the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Association for Inhalation Therapy, and the American Registry of Inhalation Therapists. The Council, in collaboration with the Board of Schools for Inhalation Therapy representing the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American College of Chest Physicians and the American Association for Inhalation Therapy, functions by surveying, reporting, and approving the training programs. The Registry investigates, examines, and certifies the competency of technicians applying for registration.

The Council, with the cooperation of the societies, has established the following minimal standards for this type of training for the information of physicians, hospitals, and prospective students, and for the protection of the public.

Individuals are to be trained in the approved schools to work as technicians under the direction of qualified doctors of medicine and not independently. Inhalation therapy is a clinical discipline. Therefore, programs of instruction and training must be clinically oriented.

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Acceptable schools for training inhalation therapy technicians may be established only in medical schools approved by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association or in accredited hospitals. An acceptable hospital may affiliate with a college or university accredited by their respective regional association of colleges and secondary schools.

2. All training of technicians shall be under competent medical control. Though the basic sciences may be taught in a college setting, it should be recognized that such is preliminary or preclinical in nature and that Inhalation Therapy itself is a clinical discipline.

3. Resources of continued operation of the school should be insured through regular budgets, gifts, or endowments; but not entirely through students' tuition fees.

4. There must be available records of high school or college work or other credentials of students. Attendance and grades of students together with a detailed analysis of their clinical experience shall be recorded systematically.

5. At least four students should be enrolled in each class. Approval may be withdrawn if a school does not have any students for a period of 2 years.

II. FACULTY

6. The school should have a competent teaching staff. The director must be a licensed physician who has had specific training or experience in inhalation therapy acceptable to the Council. He shall take regular part in and be responsible for the actual conduct of the training program. Basic Science Instructors must be competent in their respective fields and be properly qualified or certified.

7. In clinical practice, the enrollment shall not exceed 5 students to each instructor. In order to be considered an instructor, a technician should be a registered inhalation therapist and to have not less than 3 years experience.

III. FACILITIES

8. Provision should be made for each student enrolled to receive a foundation in the basic sciences and adequate clinical experience in kind and amount under the supervision of the teaching staff.

9. Affiliation of the Clinical Program with a community college or educational program beyond the high school level for the purpose of providing the basic science courses is encouraged. The number of students in the collegiate basic science program should not exceed the number of students that can be clinically supervised and trained. The hospital primarily responsible for the Training Program shall make the affiliation. The affiliated school or college must be accredited by the regional association of secondary schools or colleges.

10. Adequate equipment should be available for demonstration and clinical use. This should include all types of modalities in current accepted use.

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11. Where affiliation with other hospitals is deemed necessary or important, it should be permitted only if adequate supervision is possible. Such affiliations must be approved by the Council.

12. A library of adequate space and availability and containing references, texts, and scientific periodicals pertaining to inhalation therapy should be maintained.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

13. Candidates for admission must have completed 4 years of high school or the passing of a standard equivalency test. Courses in biology, physics, chemistry, algebra, and geometry are recommended. Education beyond high school, at the vocational, nursing, or collegiate level is desirable. A pre-entrance examination of candidate is also recommended.

V. HEALTH

14. Applicants shall be required to submit evidence of good health and successful vaccination. All students shall be given a medical examination, as soon as practicable after admission, by a physician designated by the school. This examination shall include a roentgen examination of the chest. There shall be periodic medical examination of the student.

VI. CURRICULUM

15. Length of course should include not less than 18 months of theoretical instruction and practical hospital experience.

16. The basic curriculum should include no less than the subjects and clock hours presented in the accompanying table. These applied sciences may be taught in an affiliated university, medical center, or accredited college. The sciences should be oriented to make clinical application smooth. All subjects under Practice must be taught in the hospital environment as should the subjects under Clinical Application.

VII. ETHICS

17. Excessive tuition or other student fees and commercial advertising shall be considered unethical.

18. Schools substituting students for paid technicians to meet the work-load of a department will not be considered for approval.

VIII. ADMISSION TO THE APPROVED LIST

19. Admission for approval of a school for inhalation therapy technicians should be made to the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610. Forms will be supplied for this purpose on request. They should be completed by the administrator of the institution requesting approval and signed by the physician-director of the program.

20. Approval may be withdrawn whenever in the opinion of the Council a school does not maintain an educational program in accordance with the above standards.

21. Approved schools should notify the Council whenever a change occurs in the directorship or teaching supervisor of the school.

22. Inquiries regarding registration of qualified inhalation therapists should be addressed to the American Registry of Inhalation Therapists, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

Basic Curriculum for Inhalation Therapy Technicians

Subject	Clock Hours		
A. Applied Sciences			
Anatomy	50		
Microbiology	25		
Chemistry	50		
Pathology	25		
Pharmacology	35		
Physiology	50		
Psychology	15		
Physics	50		
	300		
B. Procedures	Theory		Practice
Analysis, Gas	5		5
Airway Management	10		20
Administration, Oxygen	30		50
Administration, Other Gases	10		10
Humidification Humidification, Aerosols	30		25
Ventilation, Assistance Ventilation, Control	50		100
Resuscitation	20		20
Lung Physiotherapy	10		10
Spirometry	5		10
Equipment, Maintenance	30		50
	200		300
C. Clinical Application			
Emergency	10		50
Medicine	30		80
Obstetrics	5		10
Pediatrics	20		50
Surgery, General Surgery, Thoracic Neurosurgery	10		60
Pulmonary Function	5		30
	80		280
D. Ethics & Administration	20		20
E. Nursing Arts	...	100*	...
F. Clinical Practice	...	500*	...
Totals	600	600	600
Grand Total	1800 Clock Hours of Instruction		

* Theory and Practice

END

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